

The Intelligence Community's findings did not support the link between Iraq and the 9/11 plot [that] administration policy officials wanted [in order] to help galvanize support for military action in Iraq. As a result, officials under the direction of Under Secretary Feith took upon themselves to push for a change in the intelligence analysis so that it bolstered administration policy statements and goals.

I asked General Hayden about Douglas Feith and the Office of Special Plans. To his credit, he was critical of that operation. He said it was not legitimate "alternative analysis," and he described the troubling pattern in which preconceptions shaped the search for intelligence.

General Hayden reiterated his discomfort with the Feith approach in testifying before the Intelligence Committee. I hope that when he is confirmed, as I am certain he will be, that General Hayden will go even further in opposing efforts to subvert the intelligence process.

Today, we face even graver dangers than we did in 2003 when Under Secretary Feith was operating his own intelligence shop.

The war in Iraq has claimed over 2,400 American lives, and there is no end in sight.

Iran has pursued three different methods of enriching uranium and has experimented with separating plutonium, moving closer to the possible development of nuclear weapons.

Osama bin Laden is still at large; al-Qaida has splintered in different and dangerous directions, and North Korea is expanding its nuclear arsenal.

All these issues make it extremely important that our intelligence community conduct independent, accurate, trustworthy analysis. And it is critical that we operate within the bounds of our own Constitution and our laws.

We should not have one standard for the military and another for the intelligence community, a position once argued as high in this administration as Vice President CHENEY. We should not engage in torture or hold detainees indefinitely without of charging them with a crime.

Just 2 weeks ago, the President of the United States said it would soon be time to close Guantanamo. That certainly is something that many of us believe is in order. Those who are dangerous to the United States should be charged and imprisoned. Those who have no value to us from an intelligence viewpoint should be released, if they are not a danger to the United States.

We cannot ignore the fundamental privacy rights of American citizens and the moral values and rights reflected in the treatment of those detainees.

General Hayden will be taking charge of the CIA, by many reports at a time when the Agency is demoralized. He will have to oversee critical reforms.

Last December, members of the 9/11 Commission handed out report cards on reform for the Bush administration. They gave the CIA an "incomplete" in terms of adapting to its new mission.

I hope General Hayden can change that. I hope that he will be the independent voice that we need.

I yield the floor.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent during the vote on final passage of S. 2611, the comprehensive immigration reform bill, because I was traveling to Colorado to attend my youngest daughter's high school graduation. I want the RECORD to reflect that had I been here, I would have voted in favor of the bill. The legislation that passed the Senate will help this country to reestablish meaningful control of our borders. It will promote real law and order at ports of entry and in the interior, improving employer verification mechanisms and establishing a tough but fair path to citizenship for qualified immigrants. It rejects the idea that America can be the country we wish to be while tolerating a permanent underclass, a shadow society, within our midst. It is my hope that the most important elements of this comprehensive bill will be retained in conference with the House, and will be sent to the President's desk for signature.

Mr. President, I was also necessarily absent during the cloture vote on the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the DC Circuit. I want the RECORD to reflect that had I been here, I would have voted in favor of invoking cloture. •

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LIEUTENANT ROBERT KENNETH THOMPSON

STAFF SERGEANT GREGORY WAGNER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in the spirit of Memorial Day, which is fast approaching, I rise today to pay tribute to two sons of South Dakota who dedicated and ultimately sacrificed their lives for their country. These men died on battlefields far from home, to protect us and to advance the cause of freedom. LT Robert Kenneth Thompson and SSG Gregory Wagner both died in service to this great nation at very different times in America's history. They fought in conflicts many years apart, but both understood the importance of preserving and promoting freedom. On this Memorial Day, it is appropriate to remember not only those who have fallen in the present conflict in Iraq, but those who have fallen in previous conflicts as well.

LT Robert Kenneth Thompson of Flandreau, SD, was inducted into the United States Army on December 27, 1948. At the time of his death, LT Thompson was on assignment fighting in the Korean conflict. He was killed in action on February 12, 1951 north of Hoengsong, Korea while serving as a member of Battery A, 503rd Field Artillery.

Lieutenant Thompson had served in the United States Army for just over 2 years before his life was cut tragically short. LT Thompson dedicated his life to his country. He selflessly answered when duty called, even though it meant leaving his family behind. LT Thompson's patriotism and courage will not be forgotten.

Lieutenant Thompson is survived by his wife Doris and daughter Vicki. Today we remember his selfless dedication and service to all Americans, and his sacrifice will always have meaning to all future generations of Americans, as long as our Republic exists.

SSG Gregory Wagner of Alexandria, SD, was a full-time heavy mobile equipment repairer for the National Guard in Mitchell's Battery A, 147th Field Artillery and was deployed with the Yankton, SD unit. As a member of the Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, he was chosen as the Task Force 519th Military Police Battalion "Hero of the Week", having distinguished himself with his remarkable achievements. His mission in Iraq involved training and educating the Iraqi police force.

SSG Wagner made the ultimate sacrifice on May 8, 2006 during his service in Iraq. He was honored with a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. He will be remembered for his loyalty and dedication to his family, friends, fellow service-members, and his country.

SSG Wagner was a devoted, small-town guy who graduated from Hanson High in 1989. He was an admirer of his father, Charles Wagner, who served in the military as a sergeant in the U.S. Army. Each year at the Memorial Day services in Alexandria, SD, Charles would read the roll of soldiers. When he passed away, Greg stood in his place. My heart goes out to his mother, Velma, to all his siblings, and to his community as SGT Wagner's name is read at this year's Memorial Day service.

LT Thompson and SSG Wagner both laid down their lives for their country, and to free others from tyranny. While we are currently engaged in a very different kind of war, nothing has changed in that which we are ultimately trying to protect. For my freedom and for your freedom and to spread this freedom across the globe, our soldiers have risked and sacrificed their lives. On this Memorial Day, as we pause to reflect on those who have died so that we all might live in freedom, we can do no more to honor them than to remain dedicated to the same principles for which they stood and devoted their lives.

MEMORIAL DAY 2006

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to those men and women of the United States Armed Services who have given their lives to defend our Nation and the ideals it represents.

Numerous times in the history of our Nation, the men and women of our

Armed Forces have been called upon to defend the freedom we hold so dear. Sadly, many of those brave individuals never returned to the homes and families they selflessly left behind. Today, we honor their sacrifice and ensure that we as a nation will never forget the debt of gratitude that is owed them.

New Mexicans have a long and notable history of military service. During the Spanish American War, New Mexico guardsmen served with Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders at the Battle of San Juan Hill. New Mexicans of the 1st Infantry Regiment fought with the 40th Infantry Division in France after the U.S. entered the First World War. While participating in the Italian campaign of the Second World War, new Mexicans of the 104th Tank Destroyer battalion were awarded 8 Silver Stars, 60 Bronze Stars, and 135 Purple Hearts. Of course no one will forget the contribution Navajos from my home state made as “code talkers” or the bravery of the “New Mexico Brigade” in the Philippines during World War II. During the Vietnam War, the 188th Tactical Fighter Squadron of the New Mexico Air National Guard flew over 6,000 combat sorties and amassed over 630 medals and decorations before its release from Federal active duty in June 1969. These are just a few examples of the distinction with which New Mexicans have served our Nation. From the swamps of Cuba to the jungles of Vietnam and the deserts of Iraq, many New Mexicans have given their lives on behalf of America, and for these reasons on Memorial Day we honor these brave men and women.

We must never forget the sacrifices of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. I encourage New Mexicans and all Americans on this Memorial Day to take a moment to remember and honor the brave men and women who have fallen in our defense. I ask that New Mexicans think of them and their families, and give thanks that we are blessed with such heroic men and women.

On this Memorial Day, let us not overlook the men and women of our armed forces who since September 11, 2001 have been called away from home to fight the Global War on Terror. Many of these individuals are National Guardsmen like the members of Task Force Phoenix serving in Afghanistan, the 1116th Transportation Company serving in Iraq and Task Force Cobra serving in Kuwait. I would like to thank them and all the men and women of our State who have returned from previous deployments overseas. Not only have they made their family and state proud, they have made their country proud as well.

Today I would like to make special mention of those New Mexicans of the active and reserve military who have given their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terror. They, like Americans of generations past, answered the call to defend this

great Nation from those who would do it harm. In the spirit of the efforts put forth by such individuals, it is imperative America forever remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, Memorial Day is a time for solemn remembrance and reflection. We remember the brave men and women who gave their lives in defense of our Nation. At cemeteries and memorials across America, in tributes both public and private, we gather to honor those who died in service to our country. On May 12, members of the SGT John Rice family of Winnebago, NE, paid final tribute to his wife Evelyn who was buried at Arlington National Cemetery next to her husband. The history of John and Evelyn Rice serves as an important reminder of the sacrifices soldiers and their families make in defense of freedom.

Sergeant Rice, a Winnebago Native American, was born on Nebraska's Winnebago reservation in 1914. After high school, he began looking for an opportunity outside of reservation life. He found that opportunity by serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. Rice received a Purple Heart after being wounded and was discharged from the Army in 1945. Rice reenlisted in the Army in 1946, and among the many duties Rice performed were escorting the bodies of war casualties being brought back to the U.S. to be buried.

Rice's service again brought him into battle in 1950 during the Korea war, where he was killed in combat early in the conflict. It wasn't until almost a year later that his body was finally returned home to Winnebago. Evelyn arranged for the burial to be at Memorial Park Cemetery in Sioux City, IA, because it was close to the family and near Winnebago.

Sergeant Rice's funeral proceeded as planned on August 28, 1951. It wasn't until after Evelyn and the family left the funeral service that cemetery personnel discovered that Rice was Native American. Evelyn was told that Sergeant Rice's burial would not be completed due to a cemetery rule that only Caucasians could be buried there. In an effort to try and solve the situation, the cemetery personnel proposed to Evelyn that she could sign a document stating that Rice was Caucasian and they would finish the burial. Evelyn rejected that offer and later stated that, “When these men are in the army, they are all equal and the same. I certainly thought they would be the same after death . . .”

Two military officers who were present at the funeral alerted Army officials in Washington of the funeral's disruption. The day after Rice's funeral, news of what happened reached President Harry S. Truman, and he offered Evelyn a space for her husband to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Evelyn accepted the President's offer and arrangements were made a few days later for a ceremony to take place at Arlington National Cemetery

with full military honors. Sergeant Rice is believed to be the first Native American soldier to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Evelyn Rice passed away last year at the age of 83 and was buried earlier this month next to her husband at Arlington National Cemetery. Her courage in refusing to accept anything less than respect and honor for her husband's service and sacrifice is an example all Nebraskans can be proud of. Evelyn Rice embodied the best of America's spirit by standing up to injustice during a very difficult time for her and her family, community and country.

We must be vigilant in our efforts to remember the sacrifices of those we honor on Memorial Day. I authored a Senate resolution, which is now law, to observe a National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time each Memorial Day. Reserving this moment to reflect on Memorial Day is one way to honor those who died in service to our country. I ask everyone to join me this Memorial Day in honoring America's fallen heroes and their families, like SGT John and Evelyn Rice, and thank all those who have served their country in uniform.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, Memorial Day is a day we have set aside to remember those who have given their lives—“the last full measure of devotion”—in service to our country.

As President Abraham Lincoln looked out across the cemetery at Gettysburg, he honored the sacrifice of the soldiers who had died there and how their sacrifices preserved the Union and advanced the cause of freedom.

For more than 200 years, men—and later, women—have donned the uniform and met the many challenges of serving our great Nation and the ideals on which it was founded. Countless numbers of them have paid the ultimate price—and we honor them today.

Our freedom was not free. It was bought and paid for by the sacrifices of generations that have gone before. We honor these heroes for their courage and for ensuring that our own freedom is more than a dream—that it is indeed a reality.

Those who fought in our country's Civil War are long passed. And many of those brave men who served in our World Wars too have passed. Members of what we fondly call the “greatest generation” are leaving our midst in record numbers, and we mourn their passing—these brave men who liberated so many from tyranny. They are gone, but they certainly are not forgotten.

Memorial Day is not merely the opportunity for a 3-day weekend. It is our duty—indeed, it is our privilege—to reflect on the sacrifices that have paid the price for our freedoms.

We must also acknowledge the heroism and sacrifice of our brave men and women currently serving in the Armed Forces. I know I speak for the people of my State of Texas, and for all Americans, when I thank our soldiers,

sailors, airmen and marines—and their loved ones waiting patiently at home—for their service and their dedication to duty.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, it is my job and my honor to look after the interests of all of our military personnel. We must ensure that the military continues to have the tools it needs to remain the most powerful fighting force the world has ever known.

Our Texas military bases are some of the strongest components of our military readiness in the current global war against terror. These valuable assets help to maintain our status as the world's lone superpower, even as we transform our military to face the challenges of the future.

Soldiers are not just numbers or statistics. These are real Americans. True patriots. They have real families. When someone leaves home to fight for American interests abroad, it affects their entire community; it affects their friends and, most profoundly, it affects their families.

And so while we must remember the sacrifices of the brave men and women who fight on the battlefield, we must also be mindful of the sacrifices of those they leave behind—and so on behalf of a grateful nation, I thank them today, as well.

The difference our military is making in the world is undeniable. Just a short while ago, the idea that the Iraqi people could live free was a concept that many would not treat seriously. But the Iraqi people are forging ahead and have formed a unity government and are firmly embracing the opportunities that freedom provides.

I wish there were more balance in this discussion about Iraq. There are so many good things happening there—so many good things. And largely, unfortunately, they are left unreported.

Recently, Jack Kelly, former marine, Green Beret, and deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force during the Reagan administration, highlighted some of these important stories—for example, the account of marine Sgt Rafael Peralta, who has been posthumously recommended for the Medal of Honor.

I quote: “Sgt. Peralta was killed on Nov. 15, 2004, during the second battle of Fallujah. His squad was clearing a house. Sgt. Peralta was the first into a room where at least three insurgents lay in ambush. He was shot in the chest and the face, but still had the presence of mind to jump into an adjoining room to give the marines behind him a clear field of fire.

Four marines maneuvered into the room where Sgt. Peralta lay when an insurgent tossed a grenade into it. Sgt. Peralta pulled the grenade to him and smothered it with his body, saving the others from death or serious injury.

Sgt. Rafael Peralta died for a country he loved, but of which he was not yet a citizen. A Mexican immigrant who lived in San Diego, Sgt. Peralta

enlisted in the marines the day he received his green card.

“Be proud of being an American,” Sgt. Peralta had written to his younger brother in the only letter he ever sent him.

While this is only one story, there are hundreds more that should be acknowledged.

In recent correspondence, Iraqi Freedom veteran Major Mark McDaniel of the 301st Fighter Wing in Fort Worth wrote these words: “Our efforts there in providing security enabled these courageous people to work through the sectarian issues that existed . . . I believe that this weekend has vindicated our presence and our sacrifices in Iraq. I, and the other members of the 301st Fighter Wing . . . believe in our mission there.”

And we here at home believe in our men and women in uniform—in their courage and the cause of freedom they defend. We must always remember our Nation's heroes and live in a manner worthy of their sacrifice.

ASSISTING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY HUNGER AND POVERTY AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, 850 million people around the world go hungry every day. Famine and hunger destroy the lives of those who already suffer from extreme poverty, violence, and loss. Each instance is heart-breaking, but all too often we turn a blind eye to those in need. As a person of faith, and a board member of Bread for the World, I believe we can do more to help the most vulnerable throughout the world, and I want to draw the Senate's attention to a handful of countries devastated by poverty and hunger.

For over 40 years, Colombia has been engaged in an armed conflict between insurgent guerrilla groups and the Colombian military. This violence, exacerbated by decades of political instability and illegal drug trafficking, has subjected thousands of innocent civilians to human rights abuses. Since taking office in 2002, President Alvaro Uribe Velez has made strides in boosting the Colombian economy and stabilizing the political process. However, crime and widespread violence continue to undermine these efforts.

Colombia has the third largest internally displaced population in the world. Between 2 to 3 million people, out of a total population of 43 million, have been forced from their homes. On average, 350,000 people become internally displaced each year. Many flee to escape kidnappings, assassination attempts, and local violence linked to drug trafficking and the civil conflict.

Colombia's displaced population is in a dire state of need. Eighty percent of internally displaced people live in extreme poverty and lack access to sufficient food. In fact, Colombian insurgents have increasingly employed roadblocks and isolation tactics to stop

food shipments from reaching vulnerable locations. All too often, internally displaced persons are forced to eat fewer meals, each of which consists of low nutritional value. The average daily caloric intake of an internally displaced person is 1,752 calories—well below the recommended minimum of 2,100 calories.

Another country ravaged by poverty and hunger is Haiti. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 80 percent of the population living in poverty. In 2004, political unrest, coupled with social and economic instability and natural disasters, crippled a nation already in a state of extreme food insecurity.

The poor are particularly susceptible to chronic malnourishment. Almost half of Haiti's 8.3 million citizens are undernourished. Even more troubling, due to chronic malnourishment nearly half the children under the age of five suffer from moderate to severe stunted growth. Haiti, along with Afghanistan and Somalia, experience the worst daily caloric deficit per person in the world. The average Haitian consumes only 460 kilocalories each day.

The United Nations World Food Program provides food assistance to 600,000 Haitian people. While humanitarian relief programs like the World Food Program are a step in the right direction in eradicating hunger in Haiti, a number of factors are impeding efforts. Looting, poor road conditions, and a lack of security continue to hinder the delivery of food aid in the country.

Africa has long battled systemic poverty, violence, and hunger. The Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, has been engulfed in political turmoil for over 8 years, resulting in the death of nearly 4 million people. While the DRC is moving toward reunification and increased political stability, parts of the country remain highly volatile. Widespread violence, particularly in the eastern part of the country, has resulted in the internal displacement of more than 3.4 million people.

Civil conflict has also wreaked havoc on the country's agriculture industry. In some areas, there is a lack of secure farmland, and severe labor shortages and constant looting by combatants contribute to the crisis. Oftentimes, raiders slaughter livestock, causing scarcity of meat. In addition, efforts to increase the food supply have been thwarted by a widespread lack of basic education, job opportunities, and weak local implementing partners.

We cannot continue to ignore the current situation in the DRC while nearly 1,000 people die each day from war-related hunger and disease. Seventy-one percent of the Congolese population is undernourished and the mortality rate has climbed to more than 50 percent due to starvation.

In addition to the crisis in the DRC, Ethiopia is on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe. Ethiopia has the poorest human development indicators in the world. More than three-quarters